

## **TI-903**

**Prepared:** November 27, 2000

### **Short Description:**

GSA Asbestos Management Plans.

### **Inquiry:**

The PBS Environmental Hotline caller has requested information regarding the specific authority for GSA asbestos management plans and the frequency in which such plans should be updated.

### **Response:**

In short, GSA follows EPA regulations (40 CFR 763) and guidelines (EPA Green Book and Purple Book) in managing its asbestos program.

Requirements for a written asbestos management plan are found in GSA Order PBS P 5800.36A, Chapter 2, Section 4. A (2). As for updating the plan, any time that something happens in the building that changes the plan, or a new Asbestos Program Manager is assigned to the building, an update to the plan would be in order.

GSA follows EPA regulations (40 CFR 763) in managing its asbestos program. The regulation states that management plans are to be kept current with ongoing operations and maintenance, periodic surveillance, inspection, re-inspection, and response action activities. An operations and maintenance program is developed after a building is inspected and it is determined that asbestos-containing material exists. Building inspections should have already been conducted in all GSA controlled buildings. Periodic surveillance (once every 6 months) should be conducted in buildings with asbestos containing material. Re-inspections according to EPA are required once every year.

Also, GSA follows guidelines published by EPA - -the Green Book and the Purple Book. The Green Book is guidance on Managing Asbestos in Place, and the Purple Book is guidance for Controlling Asbestos Containing Material in Buildings.

Finally, GSA developed its asbestos program based on the EPA, OSHA, and DOT regulations and guidelines. Applicable EPA regulations include National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP at 40 CFR 61) and Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA at 40 CFR 763). Pertinent OSHA's regulations include standards for construction and hazard communications (29 CFR 1926). And the DOT's Hazardous Material Regulations are applicable to GSA's asbestos program.

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